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HOUSE RESOLUTION 198

By Jones U (Shel)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kana Barker-Mabon for winning a 2001 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those exemplary teachers who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as educators of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy teacher is Kana Barker-Mabon, who was named a winner of a 2001 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, one of 120 awarded nationally and one of two from Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barker-Mabon earned her bachelor's degree in political science at Rhodes College and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Freed-Hardeman University; and

WHEREAS, Kana Barker-Mabon has been teaching for six years at Cypress Middle School in the Memphis City Schools system; she taught social studies for three years, during which time her students' TCAP scores for social studies exceeded the national norm gains; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barker-Mabon then taught language arts and her Cypress Middle School students showed similar gains; she is currently an instructional facilitator, working with other teachers at Cypress Middle School to help improve student performance; and

WHEREAS, Kana Barker-Mabon, in addition to her teaching duties, has been the school's lead standards teacher, character education teacher, and coordinator of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program; and

WHEREAS, The Milken Awards, the largest teacher recognition program in the United States, were established in 1985 to reward, retain and attract outstanding K-12 educators to the teaching profession; Ms. Barker-Mabon's award includes an unrestricted \$25,000 prize and is part of the \$41 million in funds awarded since the establishment of the program; and

WHEREAS, Kana Barker-Mabon epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; in May of 2001 she was one of ten Memphis City Schools teachers to win the prestigious "Rotary Award for Teacher Excellence" presented by the Memphis Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barker-Mabon said upon winning her Rotary Award, "I wanted to teach in a school where I could make a difference. There are many students in my school who really want to learn but are influenced by the negative attitudes of others who don't see the benefits of education. It is important not to let the flame go out in those who still have hope. Many of these students are gifted but have to be reached in non-traditional ways. Someone has to be willing to come in and take responsibility for teaching them that education is a key to reaching your goals and dreams."; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Kana Barker-Mabon for her dedication to the education of the students of her community and of the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby

congratulate and commend Kana Barker-Mabon upon being the winner of a 2001 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award and honor and thank her for her meritorious service to the children of our state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.